

Application No. 09/408,965
Attorney Docket No. 22-0056

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-55. Claims 10, 12, 13, 36, 38, and 39 were objected to, but found to be otherwise allowable. Claims 1-9, 11, 14-35, 37, and 40-55 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 10, 36, and 53-55 have been canceled and claims 1, 12, 27, and 38 have been amended.

Claims 53-55 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowles, U.S. Patent No. 5,659,545 in view of Baum, U.S. Patent No. 5,802,044.

Claims 1, 2, 18-28, and 44-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowles in view of Baum and further in view of Schiff, U.S. Patent No. 4,577,316.

Claims 3-9, 11, 14-17, 26, 29-35, 37, 40-43, and 52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sowles, Baum, and Schiff and further in view of Hershey, U.S. Patent No. 5,867,489.

Claims 10, 12, 13, 36, 38, and 39 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but found to be otherwise allowable by the Examiner. Claims 10, 12, and 13 depend from independent claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10. Thus, claim 1 and its respective dependent claims are respectfully submitted to be allowable. In addition, the limitations of claim 1 have been incorporated into claim 12 to make claim 12 an independent claim. Consequently, claim 12 and its respective dependent claim are also respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Application No. 09/408,965
Attorney Docket No. 22-0056

Similarly, claims 36, 38, and 39 depend from independent claim 27. Claim 27 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 36. Thus, claim 27 and its respective dependent claims are respectfully submitted to be allowable. In addition, the limitations of claim 27 have been incorporated into claim 38 to make claim 38 an independent claim. Consequently, claim 38 and its respective dependent claim are also respectfully submitted to be allowable.

Thus, the Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the present application should be in condition for allowance.

Application No. 09/408,965
Attorney Docket No. 22-0056

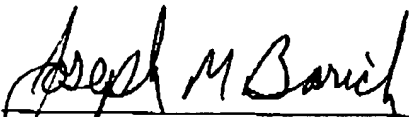
CONCLUSION

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicant can be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Applicant at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account of McAndrews, Held & Malloy, Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 3, 2004


Joseph M. Barich
Registration No. 42,291

MCANDREWS, HELD & MALLOY, LTD.
500 West Madison Street, 34th Floor
Chicago, IL 60661

Telephone: (312) 775-8000
Facsimile: (312) 775-8100